



NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

February's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) is 3.8 percent, unchanged from the previous month and two-tenths of a percentage point lower than last year. The LMA is eight-tenths of a percentage point lower than the state's rate of 4.6 percent and four-tenths of a percentage point lower than the national rate of 4.2 percent.

During the month of February, the *Civilian Labor Force* decreased by 590 persons while total unemployed decreased by 80 persons. Total employment decreased by 510 persons. Year-over-year, the *Civilian Labor Force* increased by 1,330 persons, with a decrease of 170 unemployed persons, or 5.2 percent. The year-over-year increase in the number of employed persons was 1,500.

Bonneville County held the lowest unemployment rate in the Bonneville LMA at 3.4 percent in February, followed by Butte, Jefferson, and Bingham counties at 3.9, 4.1, and 4.4 percent, respectively. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, remained at an unemployment rate of 3.6 percent, unchanged from January and three-tenths of a percentage point lower than a year ago.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased by 90 over the month, for a total of 61,250 jobs in the LMA. The largest increases came from *Services* and *Government Education* in the *Service-Producing Industries*, at over 100 jobs each. *Service-Producing Industries* showed an overall increase of 140 jobs, with the only increase coming from the two previously mentioned industries. All other industries showed decreases with *Retail Trade* (mostly from *General Merchandise Stores*) losing 80 jobs. Decreases in *Retail Trade* are standard for this time of year, as there is a lull between the holidays and spring/summer shopping. Other industries in the *Service-Producing Industries* experienced very little change. The *Goods-Producing Industries* showed decreases of 50 jobs for the month, either with decreases or no change in all industries. *Manufacturing* lost 10 more jobs than *Construction*, stimulated by a loss of 50 jobs in the *Food Processing* sector. Weather and

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	Feb 2001*	Jan 2001	Feb 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	81,990	82,580	80,660	-0.7	1.6
Unemployment	3,080	3,160	3,250	-2.5	-5.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8%	3.8%	4.0%		
Total Employment	78,910	79,420	77,410	-0.6	1.9
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	80,370	80,870	79,140	-0.6	1.6
Unemployment	3,820	3,830	4,010	-0.3	-4.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8%	4.7%	5.1%		
Total Employment	76,540	77,050	75,130	-0.7	1.9
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**					
Goods-Producing Industries	8,360	8,410	8,500	-0.6	-1.6
Mining & Construction	3,280	3,300	3,240	-0.6	1.2
Manufacturing	5,080	5,110	5,260	-0.6	-3.4
Food Processing	2,740	2,790	2,900	-1.8	-5.5
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	460	460	510	0.0	-9.8
All Other Manufacturing	1,880	1,860	1,850	1.1	1.6
Service-Producing Industries	52,890	52,750	51,480	0.3	2.7
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,170	2,170	2,310	0.0	-6.1
Wholesale Trade	5,950	5,980	5,890	-0.5	1.0
Retail Trade	11,260	11,340	11,150	-0.7	1.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,890	1,880	1,850	0.5	2.2
Services	21,260	21,120	20,290	0.7	4.8
Government Administration	5,020	5,030	4,570	-0.2	9.8
Government Education	5,340	5,230	5,420	2.1	-1.5
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

commodity prices are still playing a major role in *Construction* and *Food Processing Manufacturing*.

A year-over-year comparison shows *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 2.1 percent, or 1,270 jobs, from February 2000. *Goods-Producing Industries* had an overall decrease of 140 jobs, while *Service-Producing Industries* showed an increase of 1,410 jobs. *Construction* was the only major sector in *Goods-Producing Industries* to show an increase (40 jobs). *Manufacturing* lost 180 jobs, primarily from *Food Processing*. Every industry in the *Service-Producing Industries* showed increases, with the exceptions of *Government Education* (80 jobs) and *Communications* (200 jobs). In the *Services* industry, 970 jobs were added; notably 300 in *Business Services*, 350 in *Engineering & Management*, and 120 in *Social Services*. Another large addition in jobs came from *Government Administration* (450 jobs). *Retail Trade* experienced a year-over-year increase of 110 jobs as Bonneville County, among others, continued to expand in *General Merchandise* and *Miscellaneous Retail* stores.

SPECIAL TOPIC: 2000 CENSUS DATA

Many cities and counties have been waiting for what seemed an incredibly long time for the results of the 2000 Census. Idaho Falls was especially anxious, for good reason, and it finally paid off. Idaho Falls has finally been documented as surpassing the 50,000 mark in population. This enables the city to be

**Northeast Table 2:
2000 Annual Average Labor Force Data**

County	County Populations		% Change	Actual Change
	1990	2000		
BONNEVILLE	72,207	82,522	14.3	10,315
Ammon	5002	6187	23.7	1,185
Idaho Falls	43973	50730	15.4	6,757
Iona	1049	1201	14.5	152
Irwin	108	157	45.4	49
Swan Valley	141	213	51.1	72
Ucon	895	943	5.4	48
BUTTE	2,918	2,899	-0.7	-19
Arco	1016	1026	1.0	10
Butte City	59	76	28.8	17
Moore	190	196	3.2	6
CLARK	762	1,022	34.1	260
Dubois	420	647	54.0	227
Spencer	19	38	100.0	19
CUSTER	4,133	4,342	5.1	209
Challis	1073	909	-15.3	-164
Clayton	26	27	3.8	1
Mackay	574	566	-1.4	-8
Stanley	71	100	40.8	29
FREMONT	10,937	11,819	8.1	882
Ashton	1114	1129	1.3	15
Drummond	37	15	-59.5	-22
Island Park	159	215	35.2	56
Newdale	377	358	-5.0	-19
Parker	288	319	10.8	31
St. Anthony	3010	3342	11.0	332
Teton	570	569	-0.2	-1
Warm River	9	10	11.1	1
JEFFERSON	16,543	19,155	15.8	2,612
Hamer	79	12	-84.8	-67
Lewisville	471	467	-0.8	-4
Menan	601	707	17.6	106
Mud Lake	179	270	50.8	91
Rigby	2681	2998	11.8	317
Ririe	596	545	-8.6	-51
Roberts	557	647	16.2	90
LEMHI	6,899	7,806	13.1	907
Leadore	74	90	21.6	16
Salmon	2941	3122	6.2	181
MADISON	23,674	27,467	16.0	3,793
Rexburg	14298	17257	20.7	2,959
Sugar City	1275	1242	-2.6	-33
TETON	3,439	5,999	74.4	2,560
Driggs	846	1100	30.0	254
Tetonia	132	247	87.1	115
Victor	292	840	187.7	548

eligible for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds, and allows it to become established as a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Boundaries and definitions are still being worked out, but the city's population was recorded at 50,730 (see Northeast Table 2), and makes it the fourth largest city in Idaho. It can soon join the Pocatello (Bannock County) and Boise (Ada and Canyon Counties) MSAs with the designated title. Many companies look at the population of a city as an eligibility factor in locating their businesses; this 50,000 mark is one figure that can make the city and area more noticeable and attractive. The title of MSA will also allow the city to be listed in national Federal statistics.

Table 2 also shows changes in counties and cities in Northeast Idaho. As noted, all counties grew throughout the area, with the exception of a very slight decline in Butte County. Bonneville County grew by over 10,000 people. Madison County also grew, showing an increase of almost 4,000. Although Jefferson and Teton counties were also in the thousands for population growth, Teton County remains the most impressive in the area and the state. Sporting a growth of 74.4 percent, it is the second highest in percentage growth in the state (a 2,560 person increase), with Boise County being the highest in percentage growth.

Sliding one place in rank over the decade, Bonneville County ended with a ranking of fourth highest by population in the state for 2000. Madison County went from 11th to 12th position and Jefferson County went from 15th to 16th position. Fremont (23rd), Lemhi (30th), Teton (36th), Custer (37th), Butte (42nd), and Clark (43rd) changed very little, if at all. Butte, Clark, and Fremont counties maintained the same rankings as the previous decade, but Lemhi gained two places and Teton gained three places. Custer lost two positions in the state.

The cities were interesting to watch. Idaho Falls, Rexburg and Ammon each increased by more than 1,000 people. Idaho Falls added nearly 7,000 people. Victor experienced the largest percentage growth, 187.7 percent. Victor has become popular as awareness of its proximity to vacation areas and land availability has been enhanced in the last few years. Several cities lost population over the decade, but only one lost significantly. Challis lost 164 people, mostly from a decline in the mining industry as both Hecla Mining and Thompson Creek have either closed or are in the process of closing. The other cities are in rural areas, where losses were slight.

The overall Census results of the nine counties showed a gain of 21,519 people. The total gain from city populations showed an increase of 13,315 people. Therefore, we can see that outlying county communities, those not in city boundaries, added 8,204 people. Farmers in the area have been selling land for the tempting potential of making money on subdivisions, an idea that is becoming more attractive as commodity prices decrease and make it increasingly difficult for farmers to make a profit. Many city residents have also jumped at the idea of building homes on their own acreage; some mortgage companies have even become specialized in loans to specifically satisfy this trend. What will the new decade bring? Our rural communities are trying to focus more on economic development for the survival of their communities, and some companies are finding rural Idaho quite attractive. It seems that Eastern Idaho will continue to grow as talk of fiber optic capabilities throughout the state, enhanced trade routes between Mexico and Canada through several Eastern Idaho cities, and the Lewis and Clark bicentennial are hot topics for future discussion.

Tanya Albán, Labor Market Analyst
150 Shoup Avenue, Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208) 542-5628
E-mail: talban@labor.state.id.us